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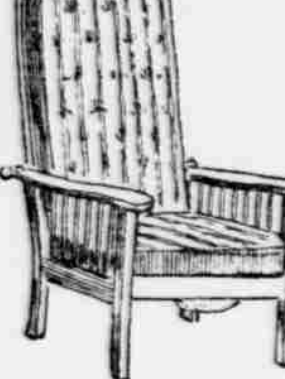
WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1898.

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**"The Great Provident."**

**Solid Comfort.**

You don't know what real comfort is unless you have a Morris Chair to take your ease in. You know, of course, that the back is adjustable and may be put to any angle you wish.



This chair is most handsome with fine Corduroy Cushions. \$4.00 or \$5.00 is the price asked everywhere. For Friday..... **\$3.98**

**"CASH OR CREDIT."**

**Mayer & Pettit,**  
415-417 Seventh St.

## NEW YORK ACTS PROMPTLY

One Million Dollars Appropriated for a War Equipment.

SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

The Measure is for the Purpose of Defraying Expenses of the National Guard, Naval Militia and State Volunteers in the Event of War With Spain.

Albany, N. Y., March 31.—Governor Black today sent to the legislature a recommendation that \$1,000,000 be appropriated to defray the expenses of the National Guard, Naval Militia and volunteers of this State in case of war with Spain.

Assemblyman Nixon introduced a bill carrying out the recommendation of the governor, and it was unanimously passed five minutes later, after the governor had sent in an emergency message for its passage at once, so that it need not be printed. The governor's message reads as follows:

"To the Legislature,

"Events are now transpiring of so grave and general import that the attention of every enlightened people is fixed upon our own. The crisis which our National Government now meets involves those deep considerations which affect the future of the race. To add that Government by approval and support; to sustain its hand when raised for justice and fair play; is the duty of every State. No hour has ever been so full of peril that New York has faltered while it passed. Because of her past history and her present greatness she should be the first to understand the meaning of today.

"After long reflection and with an earnest desire to do that which ought not to be done, I recommend that before you adjourn you take such action as your wisdom shall decide upon to provide against such urgent needs as the future may disclose.

"I hope the day is still remote which shall consume the means you set apart. But if the time should come when forborne and national self-respect can no longer stand together, and when the answer to the duty thus assigned, I believe you will, not in haste or anger, toward any other people, but in the deliberate purpose to defend your own, and as a sign of hope to the struggling and distressed, realizing that patriotism without preparation is as fragile as a dream, so act that the enlightened sentiment of the world will justify it.

"FRANK S. BLACK."

A duplicate of the bill was introduced in the Senate by Senator Higgins, who made no comment in introducing it. By unanimous consent the bill was advanced to a third reading, and passed.

In a very short time the formal processes were completed and the bill was signed by Governor Black.

The bill was introduced, went through both houses and became a law by the signature of the governor all in the space of an hour and a half's time, breaking the legislative record.

**The Appointment of Miss Harrison.**  
Berlin, March 31.—Mr. John B. Jackson, the secretary of the United States embassy, representing the United States ambassador, Mr. Andrew D. White, who is ill, has made representations at the foreign office in behalf of Miss Lora Harrison, whose expulsion from Germany has been requested as a "notoriously obnoxious person." Miss Harrison asked for the intervention of the foreign office, and the latter assured Mr. Jackson that if Miss Harrison kept within the legal limits her public appearance would not be forbidden. The Cologne Gazette ridiculed the proposed expulsion of Miss Harrison as being "a grave injustice."

**England Easily Satisfied.**  
St. Petersburg, March 31.—Sir N. R. B. Conner, the British ambassador to Russia, gave a dinner on Saturday last at the British embassy to Count Muraviov, the Russian foreign minister. Count Muraviov assured the ambassador that Russia would respect Great Britain's treaty rights in China on the basis of the most favored nation clause. This seems to have satisfied Great Britain.

**S. A. L.**  
Purchase tickets via the Seaboard Air Line and save \$2 to Jacksonville, Atlanta and other Southern points. Office at No. 144 New York Ave.

**Prices That Tell Their Own Story.**  
Frank Libbey & Co., 6th and N. Y. Ave.

## REPUBLICANS ARE ANXIOUS

They Appear to Fear That Mr. McKinley May Quail.

### THE DIPLOMACY OF SPAIN

The Majority in the House Does Not Trust the President—No Suggestion at Delay Will Be Entertained Beyond Next Monday—No Half-Way Measure Will Be Tolerated.

The Republicans of the House are anxious and uneasy.

They are fearful that the President will not be ready to meet the Cuban issue squarely next Monday.

They know that procrastination is the trump card of Spanish diplomacy, and believe that every device will be employed to persuade or cajole the President into granting further delay.

The Republicans are hopeful that the report of their special committee to the adjourned caucus this evening may present something definite and positive from the President.

They realize that after voting down the Bailey resolution yesterday it devolves upon the majority of the House to promptly settle the controversy and pave the way to peace and stable government in Cuba.

With almost one accord, the Republicans openly declare that they will not for a moment entertain even a suggestion of delay beyond next Monday. They declare that no halting, half-way measure will be tolerated; that any plan to meet their apprehensions must provide for the absolute independence of Cuba from Spain.

On the Democratic side some doubts are expressed as to the Republicans thus boldly taking control of the subject, unless the President shall show them the way.

So far as the Democrats are concerned, they do not intend to further embarrass the Republicans having consideration of the naval appropriation bill.

Mr. Bailey said: "The Times representative today that he would not make another motion relating to Cuba until after the passage of the naval bill, and that he would not make any motion until the committee on Foreign Affairs from consideration of the Morgan Senate bill resolution, and thus bring the entire subject up for action."

"I feel confident," said Mr. Bailey, "that this motion would be in order, though I have no doubt the Speaker would rule it out. Unless the rules were so framed as to specifically prohibit it, I hold it would be competent for the House to take jurisdiction of the subject of today."

It is manifest from the expressions and attitude of the Republicans that they intend to give the President the benefit of the brief period of delay he has asked. They will not undertake to forestall his suggestions until next Monday.

### PATRIOTIC PROFANITY.

Art Students Send a Pithy Dispatch to the President.

New York, March 31.—Forty young women, members of the day life class of the Chase School of Art, in an interval between poses yesterday held a mass meeting, to discuss the war situation. The leading spirits in the affair were Miss Ida Glenn, whose father is a former mayor of Atlanta, Ga.; Miss Rilla Abell, of Brooklyn; and Miss Isabel Arnold, of Brooklyn. Speeches bristling with war sentiment were made. One young woman waved her palette in the air and said: "We must kill at least 200 Spaniards before the score is even."

Another said: "Instantly! The honor of our country is at stake. Spain disputes our facts, but honor is dearer than facts. If honor and diplomacy are at variance, then I say, 'To hell with diplomacy!'"

This sentiment was indorsed by round after round of applause. Then one of the students suggested sending a telegram to President McKinley, briefly expressing the sense of the meeting. This was the result:

"To President William McKinley, Washington, D. C.,

"To hell with diplomacy."

"CHASE ART SCHOOL."

"New York City."

William M. Chase said that he was shocked to hear that the young women had done anything so undignified.

### WOXEN TO BE ARRESTED.

Irregularities Charged Against a Consul General.

New York, March 31.—Orders have been received at the office of the consul for Sweden and Norway, No. 21 State Street, from Norway to arrest Karl Woxen, the consul general in this city, who has been missing from his office since Monday of last week.

A. W. Grip, Swedish minister at Washington, is in this city investigating the accounts of the missing consul. He said the order for the arrest of Woxen was not because of any criminal charge, or because of any irregularities in his accounts. The arrest, he said, was ordered by the home government because the consul had deserted his post. Mr. Grip said he had received no information that would give the slightest clue to the present whereabouts of Mr. Woxen.

Mr. Grip said neither he nor the vice consul had been able to straighten out the accounts of Mr. Woxen, the books being in a confused condition. He said he would employ a local expert accountant to go over the books.

Mr. Grip said it was true that a man named Hellstrom had complained that he had given Mr. Woxen a draft for \$2,000 in money. He also lost a gold watch. Mr. Grip said he had not received the money, and that other complaints had been received of irregularities on the part of the missing consul in conducting money transactions.

**Highwayman and Dude.**  
St. Louis, March 31.—J. Walders Kirk, the "king of the dudes," was stopped by a highwayman shortly before midnight and forced to hand over a wallet containing diamonds valued at \$2,000, and a gold watch. He also lost a gold watch. Kirk attempted to strike the footpad with his cane, but missed and the man escaped.

**Coal Coal Coal.**  
\$2.35 per 2,240 lbs. delivered, Gayton stove, egg and nut, Powhatan Coal Co., 138 C. St. W. phone 626; or dealer generally.

**Flooring, 6-inch wide, \$1.25 for 100 ft. dressed (2) sides. Good for Partitions.**

## HONORS FOR CAPT. SIGSBEE.

The British Ambassador Makes a Formal Call Upon Him.

Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, this morning called on Secretary Roosevelt, to pay his respects to Capt. Sigbee. He left his congratulations and those of Her Majesty Queen Victoria for the hero of the Maine on his escape and his bearing throughout the entire trying ordeal of the explosion and the after suspense.

Sir Julian is known to be a sincere admirer of personal bearing and especially as it is exhibited by naval officers. Captain Sigbee was not in the Department when the ambassador called, but he was very much pleased at the kindly spirit of the visit.

Captain Sigbee was today given a temporary assignment as special aide to the Secretary of the Navy. The office is an advisory position and might be of much importance in time of war, but it is known that Capt. Sigbee will not hold it after he has been out. He will be given a ship then immediately, though it has not been decided yet which it shall be.

### SPANISH FLEET READY TO SAIL.

It Assembled at Cadiz This Morning—Will Leave for Cuba Today.

Information was received at the Navy Department this morning that the Spanish warships, Maria Teresa, Cristobal Colon and the torpedo boat destroyer Destructor, arrived at Cadiz this morning from Cartagena. There they were met by the battleships Alfonso XII and Victoria. It is learned that the squadron will sail for Havana during the day.

## THE SENATE IS WAITING

Only a Complete Surrender by Spain Can Avert War.

SENATOR ALLEN SPEAKS

He Calls for the Reading of His Resolution of Tuesday and Then Proceeds to Discuss the Cuban Question—Criticizes Some Senators Whose Patriotism Has Waned.

The senate is waiting for Monday.

The interest in the Cuban question has not lessened; it is, if anything, more intense than ever because public men realize that the day for action is near at hand. But one thing can avert war, and that is the complete surrender of Spain and an absolute compliance with the demands of the United States.

If these demands are complied with it is probable the Cuban question can be settled without further delay and without the loss of additional life or property.

If Spain does not comply, if she persists in her resistance and pleads for delay, if the President is unable to notify Congress on Monday that Spain has given a positive answer then the independence of the island will be recognized, and the President will be directed to intervene. There will be no protracted debate, no pyrotechnic speeches as a prelude to patriotic action. It will be taken speedily and in a dignified manner with a full knowledge of the responsibilities that go with it.

The only reference in the Senate to the Cuban question was the speech of Mr. Allen, who addressed the Senate on his resolution of Tuesday.

He said that he had advocated the independence of the Cubans long before it was a popular thing to do, and he read a resolution he had offered on December 4, 1895.

In speaking at that time in support of this resolution, which was for the independence of the Cubans, he had said these people should receive the support of the United States. He had asked what was to prohibit Congress to recognize their independence.

On February 18, following, he introduced another resolution requesting the President of the United States to recognize the belligerence of the Cubans, and in support of it he had declared that the Cubans were then maintaining a government.

"Now," said Mr. Allen, "I would go farther than either of these resolutions, and demand that Cuba be recognized as one of the nations of the earth, and pledge the power of our army and navy to enforce this."

"I would admit a minister from Cuba to this country, recognizing and giving him all the courtesies accorded to the Spanish minister."

"I held then and I hold now that this question is one for the consideration of Congress, or for the President and Congress together."

Mr. Allen then went on to show what was meant by a state of war. He said we know that a state of war exists in Cuba and it remains to be seen whether we have the patriotism and courage to recognize them and help them to gain the freedom we so much boast of.

"If we stand here and allow Spain to cut the throats of all those people, we shall justly merit the criticism of all nations of the world."

"A few days ago senators in this chamber were falling over each other, so to speak, to vote for such resolutions. There was a wonderful outburst of patriotism inspiring Democrats, Republicans and Populists alike. Yet our patriotism at this moment is suffered to die out, until it is very doubtful now whether the resolution in regard to the consular correspondence can pass here today."

## WE MAY BUILD BOATS.

One Hundred Torpedo Craft Needed for the Navy.

"Whatever the result of the early engagements at sea between Spain and the United States, the absolute security of our coast in from three to five months would seem a result well worth aiming at and warranting the cost."

This statement is contained in the report submitted to Assistant Secretary Roosevelt by Chief Naval Constructor Hichborn and Engineer-in-Chief Melville in support of their proposition for the construction of 100 torpedo boats at a cost of \$7,500,000. The officials propose to take action as soon as it becomes definitely known whether there is to be peace or war. The report reads in part:

"With reference to the problem of obtaining a large number of torpedo boats under emergency conditions the bureau will state at the outset that these conditions do not admit of the highest class of work of the best results as regards speed, horse power per ton of machinery, etc., but at the same time strength, safety and general efficiency should not and need not be sacrificed."

"As to the type of boat to be adopted in order to be built with maximum rapidity it is essential that we duplicate an existing type and build a single screw type. This reduces us to duplicating the 'Tallboy' and the 'Mackinac' and the 'McKeen' type. The latter are 40 per cent larger and of heavier scantling. In their design extreme results were not aimed at and should be duplicated successfully by a number of firms that would have difficulty with the 'Tallboy' and 'Gwin'."

"The principal cause of slow construction of these little boats is the delay in obtaining material. Their structural material is small in quantity, and of a quality not ruled commercially, so it is almost impossible to obtain it in a reasonable time for a single boat. The bureau would propose that the department obtain the hull material—that is, plates and trim in a lump, and supply it to the builders."

"If given a free hand, the Bureau of Construction and Repair can obtain shapes which are needed first in building for one hundred boats in a little over a week, and the plates in from four to five weeks, at a total cost of a little over \$100 per boat. With an adequate number of competent shipbuilding establishments, working at high pressure, the hull work on the first of one hundred boats could be completed in six weeks, and on all in about twelve weeks. Making due allowance for the longer time required for machinery, it is believed that the first of one hundred boats could be completed in three months, and all of them in five months."

"These boats can pass through the Erie Canal, and a number of lake firms could undertake them. There is a ship in the country which could not undertake the machinery, or some part of it having complete working plans from the start, and it is believed that if the interests concerned can be induced to rise to the occasion, through a judicious mixture of patriotism and remuneration, the rapidity of construction of such boats will be obtained. An effort would have to be made to buy torpedo tubes, but that should be accomplished with ease."

"The total cost of one hundred such boats, complete ready for service, should not exceed \$7,500,000. They should be regarded strictly as hurried defense boats. With such a number, combined with the army defenses, it would be impossible for a hostile fleet to overwhelmly strong, or to strike us as hard as we are now, striking distance along our coast."

### MR. MCKINLEY DENOUNCED.

Cleveland Citizens Severely Condemn His Pro-Spanish Policy.

Cleveland, March 31.—Cleveland citizens to the number of several thousand, united in a denunciation of Spain and McKinley's Spanish policy last night. Mayor McKisson presided, and announced that the meeting was held to express to the world the sympathy of Cleveland men for suffering Cuba. All the speakers united in a denunciation of Spain and an arraignment of President McKinley for what was variously termed his "do-nothing policy," "his dishonorable policy," "his foolish belief in Spain's honor," which does not exist," and "his surrender of our national pride."

At the conclusion, after a long series of whereases, these resolutions were adopted:

"That we, as citizens of Cleveland, here assembled, commend in the highest terms the loyal patriotism and devotion to country and to the cause of humanity, shown by Hon. Joseph B. Foraker, and his colleagues, Senators Thurston, Proctor, Gallinger, Allen and Mason, who have undertaken the movement in the United States Congress for the independence of Cuba, and accord to them our earnest and warm praise, and that we fully indorse Senator Foraker's resolution."

The meeting was enthusiastically a degree, and all references to President McKinley were greeted by groans and hisses, while Foraker's name was cheered long and loudly.

### BROOKLYN BRIDGE EMPLOYEES.

Falling Receipts Will Cause the Discharge of Forty-Three.

New York, March 31.—Forty-three more heads fell beneath the official ax of Bridge Commissioner Shea yesterday, when that number of trainmen were notified that after the end of the month their services would not be required. This will make a total decrease in the number of bridge employees of fifty-nine men since the operation of the trolley on the big structure. The cut, Commissioner Shea explains, is necessary because of the tremendous falling off in the bridge receipts owing to the trolley.

It is expected that more discharges will be made in the near future. The ordinary train will be run during the ordinary hours of the day, but it is said that these trains will be run at frequent intervals all through the night.

### Hanged in Effigy.

Buffalo, March 31.—President McKinley was hanged in effigy by a crowd of men and boys in East Swan Street last night. A suit of clothes stuffed with straw and bearing a card labeled "McKinley," was strung up to a telegraph pole. The police dispersed the crowd and made two arrests.

### The Weather—Libbey & Co. say

Fair tonight and tomorrow.

## THE WAR SPIRIT IS RIFE

Members of Congress Criticize Policy of the President.

### REED IS UNUSUALLY STRICT

The House of Representatives Teemed With Excitement, and the Next Four Days Will Be Full of Important History—Foreign Affairs Committee Reaches No Decision.

There was no abatement of the excitement on the House side of the Capitol today.

The war spirit was rife and gaining in strength each hour.

By 10 o'clock many of the members were present and the one topic discussed was war with Spain.

In the Democratic club room an indignation meeting was held and Democratic patriots, in beligerent tones, criticized the attitude of the President.

On the Republican side many Republicans were equally ardent, but the majority of those who are for drastic action accepted the advice of the leaders and will wait until 5 o'clock before deciding on a final and definite step. At 5 o'clock, in the old library room, another meeting of the patriotic bolters will be held.

At this meeting, the eleven members, headed by Messrs. Hopkins and Joy, who called on the President this morning, will report the result of their call.

Meanwhile the Democrats must possess their souls in patience and wait.

This continued delay, the constant plea for more time, is beginning to tell on the attitude of individual members in a startling manner.

Men hitherto decidedly conservative have become bellicose. The spirit of war is afloat in the chamber, and unless the action of the President is promptly and decisively satisfactory, Reed will be thrown overboard by the Republicans.

Slowly, tall and strong like the mighty pine of the forest; Seth Brown, dignified and fiery; White colored; full of Americanism; Joy, dignified but patriotic and scores of other Republicans are on the verge of abrupt revolt.

Not fifty members of the House trust the President thoroughly, but they may give him this last chance.

The Committee on Foreign Affairs met this morning. It was a stormy session, but the Republicans wanted to wait until after the caucus tonight, before committing themselves. The Democrats, of course, were for war, quick, sure, certain and awful in its consequences to Spain.

The Maine was destroyed by Spain. This truth will not down.

The Foreign Affairs Committee arrived at no decision. Champ Clark, eager and impatient to fight the House, said after the meeting:

"There will be nothing done as long as there is a Republican majority in this committee."

Reed was unusually strict in enforcing order this morning, and even some of his outside crew revolted under his inexorable rules and decisions.

The whole House is teeming with excitement and the next few days will be full of important history.

### RAILROAD TRAINS COLLIDE.

Freight and Passenger Engines Come Together.

New York, March 31.—Two train hands were badly injured and six passengers were badly bruised in a collision on the North Shore branch of the Staten Island rapid transit system, in the St. George yard last night. Engine No. 9, hauling a passenger train from Mariners' Harbor, shortly before 10 o'clock, left the track and crashed into Baltimore and Ohio freight engine No. 85, which was standing on a switch. The boiler head of the freight engine was torn out, one of the driving rods of the passenger engine was broken, and other damage was done.

There were slight injuries to the two conductors, and they were thrown violently against the seats in front of them. Several sustained severe bruises, but none seriously hurt. John Fox, a brakeman, was in the smoking car. He was thrown against a window and his scalp was cut by the breaking glass. George Smoot, the conductor, was on the front platform of the rear car. He was hurled against the railing, his nose was broken, and he was badly cut on the scalp.

## A MINE WRECKED THE MAINE.

Judge Advocate Marks Says He Is Sure of This.

New York, March 31.—Lieut. Com. Marks, judge advocate of the Board of Inquiry into the Maine disaster, has resumed his duties as executive officer of the receiving ship Vermont. The lieutenant commander, released from the oath of secrecy in relation to the blowing up of the battleship, had this to say:

"We know that the Maine was blown up by a mine as surely as a physician knows a man is poisoned when he finds him suffering from the effects of poison."

It was suggested that the conclusions of the Board seemed based on circumstantial evidence.

"Surely," exclaimed Lieut. Comd. Marks, "you have not read carefully the report of the Board or you would not feel a particle of doubt as to how the Maine was destroyed. The evidence was circumstantial, true, in the sense that we did not find any remnant of the mine, and the person whose hand caused the explosion, but it was conclusive."

"The Maine's keel was found blown upward, her plates were blown inward and nothing on earth could have produced that result. The effect of the explosion of a mine on a ship is as well known as the effects of poison on the human system."

"The wreck of the Maine was the mute, incontestable evidence of the explosion of a mine, and, after exhausting all available evidence, the Board has so reported."

No sooner was the report of the Board completed and delivered to the President than Lieut. Comd. Marks asked for a war assignment. He wanted to fight. He will be given command of the yacht Sovereign, if purchased by the United States. Before his assignment to the Vermont, Lieut. Comd. Marks was executive officer of the Maine.

## AWAITING SPAIN'S REPLY

Her Response to America's Ultimatum Should Be Ready.

### MCCOOK AT THE WHITE HOUSE.

All Things Subordinated for the Moment to the Answer That the Madrid Government May Make to the Demands Submitted to the Ministry—No Further Delay Possible.

Gen. Grosvener was one of the early callers at the White House this morning. He said he thought Spain would take the full time to reply to America's ultimatum, but that the answer would probably be received this afternoon. He also said that the bond syndicate purchase scheme was too much like a town site project, and that he knew the offer had never been made.

Senator Cushman K. Davis, chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, called early, but would say nothing of his visit. Senator Elkins saw the President for a few moments, and said that he was looking quite well, and did not appear at all like a man broken down with anxiety. Representative McKinley also called, and while he would not say anything definite about the situation, thought that relations could not remain in such strained conditions long. Representative Hawley of Texas was at the White House for a few minutes.

Col. John J. McCook called as usual upon Secretary Porter, but knew of nothing new about the purchase of Cuba by the bond syndicate.

All developments in the situation at the White House depend upon Spain's answer this afternoon, and the message which President McKinley prepared asking Congress for an appropriation to relieve the suffering in Cuba is waiting and may never be sent in. Everyone realizes that the waiting game that is being played must soon come to an end and expects that the crisis will reach a critical point tomorrow, and be settled by the harmonious action of the President and Congress in the best interests of the people.

Attorney General Griggs and Secretary Bliss called about noon. Their conferences with the President related only to the routine business of their respective departments.

A delegation of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association, of Baltimore, called to submit resolutions expressing confidence in the President and indorsement of his course in the Cuban negotiations. The members of the delegation were cordially received by the President and he expressed confidence that when the last chapter of the crisis had been written it would receive the approval of the American people.

Those who have had charge of the diplomatic negotiations and the war preparations did not visit the President. Judge Day's absence was interpreted to mean that no news of importance had been received from Madrid. It was reported that the answer of the Spanish government to the ultimatum submitted through Minister Woodford would probably be received Friday. Secretaries Alger and Long, of the War and Navy Departments, apparently had no matters of importance to lay before the President. Their work, it is believed, is practically completed so far as the preliminary work is concerned. They have placed the country on a war footing and await the pleasure of the President and Congress.

### HIS NAME WAS HISSED.

Reference to Mr. McKinley the Signet for Disapproval.

New York, March 31.—In the performance of "The Ballet Girl" at the Harlem Opera House last night some verses were interpolated in one of the songs which reflected on President McKinley's Cuban policy. He was called a coward President, and at the mention of his name the audience hissed so furiously that the words of the song thereafter could not be heard.

The next verse praised Consul General Lee, and the audience simply rose up and yelled with enthusiasm.

### Antique of New Bicycle Hose

For \$1, at Joseph Auerbach's, 623 Pa. ave.

Wheelwright, white oak, 4 cents a foot. Clear and very good.

Wheelwrights can find everything they need at 6th St. and N. Y. Ave.

## THE RUSH OF PREPARATION

Everything Being Put in Readiness for the Final Order.

### THE SPANISH SQUADRON

Secret Instructions Have Been Issued to Commodore Schley—The Flying Fleet Is Prepared to Fight. The Torpedo Flotilla May Reach Porto Rico on Saturday.

At the War and Navy Departments there is the last great rush of preparation. Everything is being put in readiness for the final order.

Stringent rules of secrecy have been adopted. Commander Dickens, of the Navigation Bureau, said yesterday that these precautions were against giving information to "the enemy." The rules are as rigid as they would be in time of war.

Officers at the departments do not hesitate to say that the preparations are more vigorous than ever.

Orders have been issued to Commodore Schley of the flying squadron, but it cannot be learned what their nature is.

It is, however, known that the ships are ready for instant fighting service. The best information obtainable regarding the Spanish torpedo flotilla is that it will reach Porto Rico between Saturday and Monday.

The second Spanish squadron, which sailed yesterday morning, is even more important. The first strong intimation by the United States that the war must cease in Cuba was sent to Spain Tuesday. Within twenty-four hours this formidable squadron sailed westward. It can make fast time and may reach Porto Rico, if that is its destination, very soon after the flotilla.

Whatever the President may believe will be the answer of Spain to the ultimatum, the officers of the War and